(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said aircraft had dropped its consignment there quite successfully;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) There are reports of sighting of low-flying aircraft on two occasions on 20.4.97 by an Army Unit posted at Mandai in Tripura. These sightings have, however, not been corroborated from any other source.

(c) and (d) There is no report of any air dropping of any consignment by the said aircrafts.

(e) The State Government as well as other agencies have been fully alerted in this regard.

Export Potential of Floriculture

4739. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a recent study conducted by the Export-Import Bank of India to the present state of floriculture and its export potential; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government contemplate to remove the major impediments listed in the report?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Ministry of Agriculture implemented a Central Sector Scheme on commercial Floriculture with an outlay of Rs. 14.29 crores in all the states/UTs of the country during the 8th Plan. Major emphasis was on providing quality planting material; training on production and post-harvest management; and on area expansion. The scheme is likely to be continued during the Ninth Plan period.

(ii) National Horticulture Board under Ministry of Agriculture, provides a soft loan of upto Rs. one crore to integrated projects on production and post harvest management including marketing with focus on exports. During the Eighth Plan period Rs. 52.50 crores were sanctioned for assisting 61 projects on floriculture located in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(iii) APEDA (Ministry of Commerce) is assisting in setting up facilities for separates handling of export Cargo of perishable items at Mumbai and Delhi Airports.

(iv) Wholesale market-cum-auction Centres are planned to be set up by APEDA at 5 major cities *viz.* Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai and Bangalore.

(v) APEDA is implementing a UNDP assisted project on floriculture aimed at achieving an expansion of the cut flower export sector based on improved production expertise and market knowledge.

(vi) The Government of India has simplified and streamlined the procedures of plant material imports, particularly for export oriented projects.

(vii) Import duty on several important equipment etc. required in 100% Export Oriented Units has been waived/ reduced.

(viii) APEDA is implementing schemes for development of infrastructures, packaging, marketing (including air freight subsidy) to facilitate exports of floriculture products from the country.

[Translation]

Eve-Teasing in Delhi University

4740. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of Eve-Teasing in Delhi University and College Hostels have registered steep increase due to which it has become impossible for the residents to come out of their hostel in the evening;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of persons arrested for eve-teasing during the last six months and the action taken against them;

(d) whether the Government has taken any strict steps in order to check the incidents of eve-teasing; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) During the last six months from 1.11.96 to 30.4.97, 20 cases of eve teasing have been reported in Delhi University and College Hostels as against 8 such cases during preceeding six months from 1.5.96 to 31.10.96.